

that all voters, and particularly those military voters who are serving overseas during a time of war, have an equal opportunity to not only cast a vote, but to have that vote counted.

ELECTIONS IN MONGOLIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am concerned by reports from Mongolia of alleged election irregularities following a July 17th revote at a certain polling station in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar.

According to observers on the ground, the revote occurred less than 12 hours after it was announced at 8 p.m. on July 16th. While I do not know the nocturnal habits of the Mongolian people, I doubt that voters in Ulaan Baatar—or anywhere else in Mongolia, for that matter—can be fully and adequately informed of the revote in such a short time.

Field reports seem to bear this out. According to the International Republican Institute, turnout at that polling station in the June 27th elections exceeded 70 percent; on the July 17th revote, it totaled some 46 percent. Nearly one-quarter of those who voted in June did not cast a ballot in July.

Further troubling are allegations of a systematic pattern of denying supporters of the Motherland Democracy Coalition, MDC, the right to vote, refusal to permit MDC observers inside the polling station, the use of Mongolian law enforcement officials to prohibit access to the polling station, and vote buying in favor of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, MPRP.

If proven true, these irregularities would mark a major departure from Mongolia's previous election experiences, where voting was generally orderly and according to applicable laws and regulations.

My colleagues might find it interesting that the seat in question was won in the first round of balloting by MDC candidate and businessman Otganbayer by a 222 vote margin. The revote found MPRP Defense Minister Gurragechaa winning the seat by 1,239 votes.

There is no question that reports of irregularities and chicanery must be fully and impartially investigated by the relevant election authorities, and that any and all violators of election laws and regulations be prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of Mongolian law. It is my hope that this process is more transparent than the counting of ballots at that particular polling station. It is outrageous that MPRP officials prohibited independent election observers to witness the opening of ballot boxes and the counting of ballots—in violation, I understand, of Mongolian law.

Mongolia's leadership would be wise to consider that the country's reputation—and inclusion as an eligible recipient for increased foreign assistance under the Millennium Challenge Cor-

poration—is at stake. Any government that is formed that does not reflect the real will of the Mongolian people will lack credibility and the respect of the international community.

Ulaan Baatar should take note that Washington—and the world—is watching.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR BEN TAYLOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Kentuckian, Ben "Buster" Taylor, a retired Special Forces sergeant major and former Letcher County Sheriff. Sergeant Major Taylor is not one to brag about his accomplishments, but he should be honored for his courageous and selfless acts during the two decades he spent serving this Nation in the U.S. military.

In 1950, inspired by the heroism of World War II veterans, Taylor joined the United States Army's 11th Airborne Division at Camp Campbell, KY, which is now known as Fort Campbell. As he worked his way through various divisions, the Army began organizing its Special Forces Branch, the Green Berets. Taylor enthusiastically joined the Green Berets and spent the better part of two decades serving with his comrades in Japan, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines, Burma, China, Laos, and Vietnam.

Taylor's missions exemplified his bravery and altruism. During his tours of duty, he was awarded 24 medals and 18 ribbons, among these four bronze stars. With each honor, a story revealing his heroism is told. He has notebooks full of citations and commendations that tell of the many times he risked his own life to save others. But of all these honors, the one most memorable to Taylor is the role he played in the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. Taylor was selected to represent the Green Berets at President Kennedy's funeral. He walked alongside the casket of the fallen Commander in Chief.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing a true American hero, Sergeant Major Ben Taylor.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOBBY RUSSELL HIMES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Kentuckian and proud Republican, Dr. Bobby Russell Himes. Earlier this year, Dr. Himes was named Central Kentucky News-Journal's 2004 Man of the Year. The title is one that Dr. Himes has earned.

Dr. Himes has always strived to live life to its very fullest and give 110 percent. After serving 4 years in the U.S. Air Force, he completed his bachelor's degree at Kentucky Wesleyan College. He went on to finish his formal education by earning a masters degree from Appalachian State University and

a doctorate from Vanderbilt University. For 40 years, he was a professor of history and political science at Kentucky's Campbellsville University. He was an inspiring educator, mentor, and friend to students and colleagues. While he no longer teaches classes, he continues to support and encourage younger generations.

Beyond his role as an educator, Dr. Himes has been a businessman, a stalwart volunteer for the Republican Party, and an instrumental figure in creating the Central Kentucky Arts Series. Furthermore, he is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and now a great-grandfather.

Dr. Himes is truly an inspiration. He persevered through a childhood during the Great Depression and a battle with cancer. If there is one thing to learn from Dr. Bobby Russell Himes, it is his philosophy for living. Dr. Himes believes that, "By setting goals—even if you don't achieve them—you're going to go further just because you set them."

May we please take this time to honor the man whom so many look up to, Dr. Bobby Russell Himes, Central Kentucky News-Journal's 2004 Man of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO R.J. CORMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a fellow Kentuckian, Mr. R.J. Corman. Mr. Corman is a remarkable man who has overcome life's adversities and achieved great business success.

Mr. Corman got his start in the railroad business working a backhoe for L&N Railroad. Little did he know, but this initial exposure would lead to his lifetime work. He founded and continues to operate the R.J. Corman Railroad Group in his hometown of Nicholasville, Kentucky. His business has grown over the years and now operates in 19 States, has about 630 employees, and will have at least \$120 million in sales this year. The goal of the R.J. Corman Railroad Group is to please customers and perform their services better, faster, and more efficient than anyone else.

While Mr. Corman's companies are incredibly successful and expansive, it is his personal successes that I pay tribute to most. Three years ago, Mr. Corman was diagnosed with cancer and given 3 years to live. A man not used to sitting idly by, he successfully completed a stem-cell bone marrow transplant in November 2001 and today his cancer is in complete remission. In fact, Mr. Corman is doing so well that at the age of 48 he ran in the 108th annual Boston Marathon.

Mr. Corman came from humble beginnings, the son of a state highway worker and homemaker. But he hasn't forgotten where he came from or the lessons his grandfather taught him about hard work and honesty. His never give up attitude has led to business success and overcoming serious